

## The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

### Ohio State Engineer

<b>Title:</b>	Why Choose Engineering?
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<b>Issue Date:</b>	Mar-1939
<b>Publisher:</b>	Ohio State University, College of Engineering
<b>Citation:</b>	Ohio State Engineer, vol. 22, no. 4 (March, 1939), 22-23.
<b>URI:</b>	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35595">http://hdl.handle.net/1811/35595</a>
<b>Appears in Collections:</b>	<a href="#">Ohio State Engineer: Volume 22, no. 4 (March, 1939)</a>

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## **Why Choose Engineering?**

By DAVE DOLLE

In our modern civilization, which is characterized by power and machines, the engineer is an important figure. He is interested in the discovery and practical application of available resources for the convenience and welfare of mankind. The inventions brought about by extensive and exhaustive research into the laws of chemistry and physics are of little value to us if there are no men trained to apply this vast knowledge.

Even the early Romans realized the value of engineering principles when they constructed their roads and huge aquaducts. We admire these ancient buildings for their sturdy construction. However, today as the

world's technical knowledge is increasing by leaps and bounds, there is a more vital need for well trained engineers. Technical training alone is not enough for the modern engineer. He must be able to predict the changes his works will cause in the standard of living. These changes will not only be materialistic, but economic, sociological, and spiritual as well. The ideal engineer attempts to raise the standard of living to the highest practical level by means of careful scientific procedure. He attacks his problems from all angles and gets results in concise and useful solutions.

Extensive engineering has brought us the radio, press, and motion picture. These inventions have brought about many changes in living. What changes will come with the wide use of television, a splendid example of an engineering product? Because of the spread of knowledge to all parts of the world through the use of these inventions, the education of man is becoming more and more complex. Jobs and positions that yesterday were held by men with average educations are now being held open for well trained engineers. Many important executive and administrative positions in industries, railroads, public utilities, and public works are being held by engineers. They are taking a more active part in the business and public affairs of this country and of the world at large. The complexity of modern industry makes the expert engineer a necessary factor not only in industry alone, but in the governmental supervision of industry. State public utility commissions employ scores of engineers. Civil engineers have been elected to the important position of city managers. The enormous dam and aquaduct projects of today require the services of large engineering staffs for five or ten years. When the dams are completed there must be engineers to maintain the operations of the power plants. New branches of engineering are springing up every day and new and vast fields are being opened. The field of engineering is in continuous activity. We look with pride at engineering—from the manufacture of a small watch screw to the building of a great bridge.

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